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PATENT # 4
730083-2000.2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Stelzer, et al.
Serial No. : 09/943,346 (divisional of 09/247,707, a Continuation-In-Part of Allowed U.S. Application Serial Number 08/916,147)
For : MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY DEVICE
Filed : August 29, 2001

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that this application is a divisional of allowed U.S. application serial number 09/247,707, which itself is a Continuation-In-Part of allowed U.S. application serial number 08/916,147 and to the following documents:

U.S. AND FOREIGN PATENT(S)

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,320,091, granted June 14, 1994 to Grossi, et al.;
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,291,010, granted March 1, 1994 to Tsuji;

3. U.S. Patent No. 4,674,501, granted June 23, 1987 to Greenberg;
4. U.S. Patent No. 4,982,725, granted January 8, 1991 to Hibino, et al.;
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,368,015, granted November 29, 1994 to Wilk;
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,494,483, granted February 27, 1996 to Adair;
7. U.S. Patent No. 5,484,418, granted January 16, 1996 to Quiachon, et al.;
8. U.S. Patent No. 5,603,687, granted February 18, 1997 to Hori, et al.;
9. U.S. Patent No. 4,245,624, granted January 20, 1981 to Komiya;
10. U.S. Patent No. 5,558,619, granted September 24, 1996 to Kami, et al.;
11. U.S. Patent No. 5,152,277, granted October 6, 1992 to Honda, et al.;
12. U.S. Patent No. 4,419,987, granted December 13, 1983 to Ogiu;
13. U.S. Patent No. 4,737,142, granted April 12, 1988 to Heckelee;
14. U.S. Patent No. 4,862,874, granted September 5, 1989 to Kellner;
15. U.S. Patent No. 5,478,318, granted December 26, 1995 to Yoon;
16. International Patent No. WO 93/25138, published on December 23, 1993.

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention is invited to the documents, which are set forth in the accompanying form PTO-1449, enclosed in duplicate. Since copies of these references should be in the predecessor application files (serial numbers 09/247,707 and 08/916,147), no additional copies are being forwarded with this Communication.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider, and make of record, the documents cited herein. This Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation that the documents cited herein are considered most pertinent, or that a search has been undertaken, or

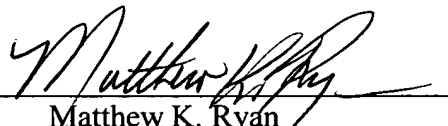
that any of the cited documents are indeed prior art. The Examiner is invited to undertake an independent search.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and make of record the documents cited herein and that a copy of the Form PTO-1449, initialed by the Examiner be returned to applicants' attorneys.

It is believed that no fees are required by the instant submission as it is prior to receipt of the first Office Action in this application. However, if any fees are required, or if any overpayment has been made, please charge Deposit Acct. No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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